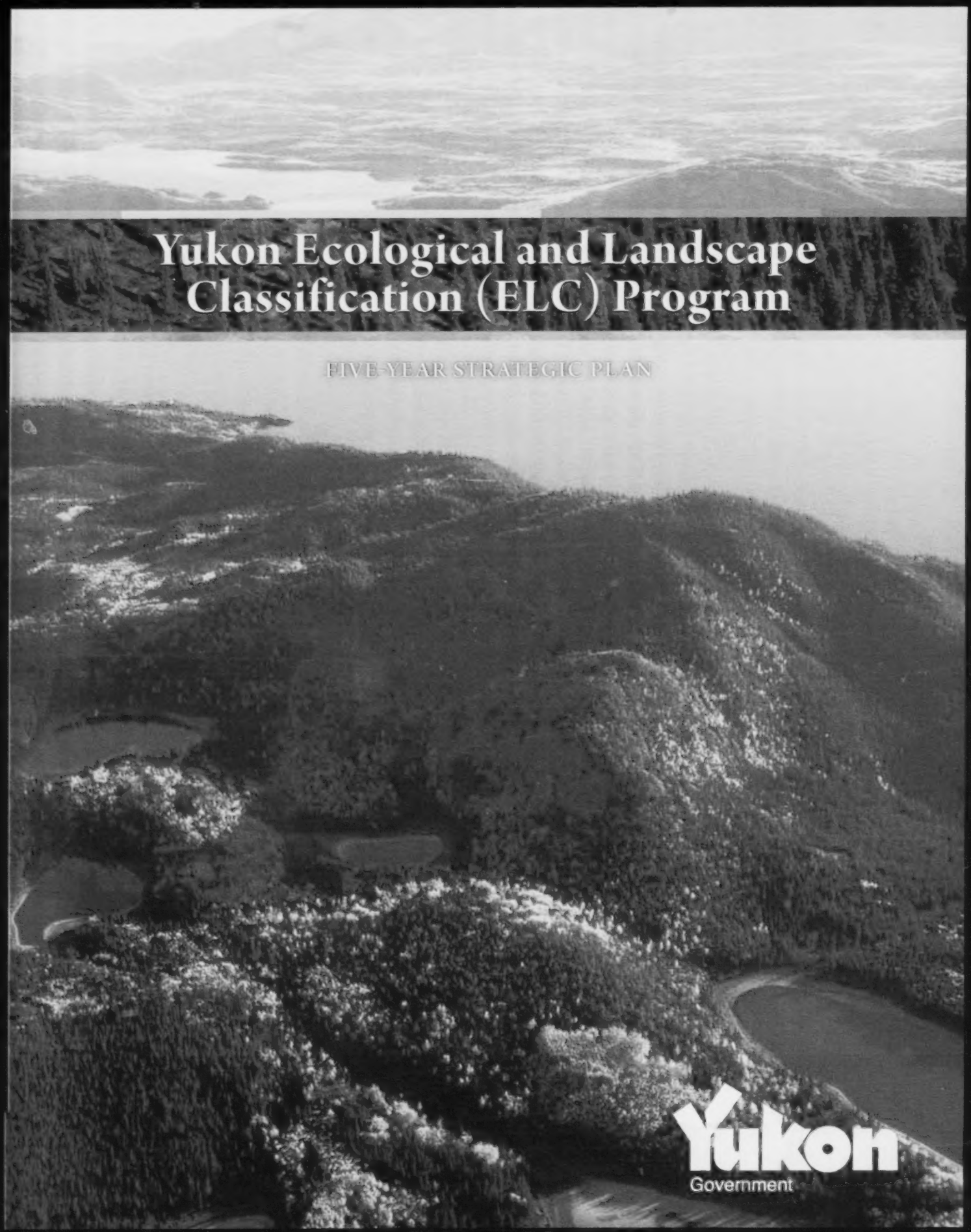

Yukon Ecological and Landscape Classification (ELC) Program

FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Yukon
Government

ISBN 978-155362-652-7

Copies of this document, including a digital version, are available at:

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Visit the Yukon Ecological and Landscape Classification Program Website at www.env.gov.yk.ca/elc

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Table of Contents

Deputy Ministers Message 1

Executive Summary 3

1 Introduction 4

1.1 Vision 4

1.2 Mission 4

2 Strategic Context 7

2.1 Program History 7

2.2 Services and Products 7

3 Strategic Direction 10

3.1 Program Components 11

3.2 Program Coordination and Management 12

4 Strategic Goals and Objectives 14

Goal 1 – High quality, well-managed and accessible input data 14

Goal 2 – Classification and mapping framework and standards established for Yukon landscapes 15

Goal 3 – ELC is used to support and inform sustainable and integrated resource management 16

Goal 4 – A strong, supported program with the capacity to meet demands 17

5 Action Plan 19

5.1 Phase I – Framework Development 20

5.2 Phase II – Standards Development 21

5.3 Phase III – Program Services 23

6 Monitoring, Evaluating, and Reporting 25

7 Appendix: Ecosystem and Landscape Classification Program Logic Model 26

List of Figures

Figure 1 Core ELC program components 11

Figure 2 Yukon ELC program coordination 13

Deputy Ministers Message

Yukon's Ecological and Landscape Classification (ELC) program envisions a territory-wide ecological classification and mapping program that provides expert knowledge of Yukon landscapes and map products. This knowledge is the foundation for sound resource planning and management. ELC creates a consistent approach to the landscape information used by land use planners, wildlife and forest managers, the mining/energy/forestry/agriculture sectors and various boards and councils, as well as the many federal, territorial, local and First Nation government agencies in their land, wildlife and resource management programs.

Over the next five years the ELC program will focus on developing three key program areas:

ELC Framework: Provide a uniform approach to Yukon ecological landscape classification and mapping to facilitate the integration and sharing of ecosystem knowledge across multiple disciplines.

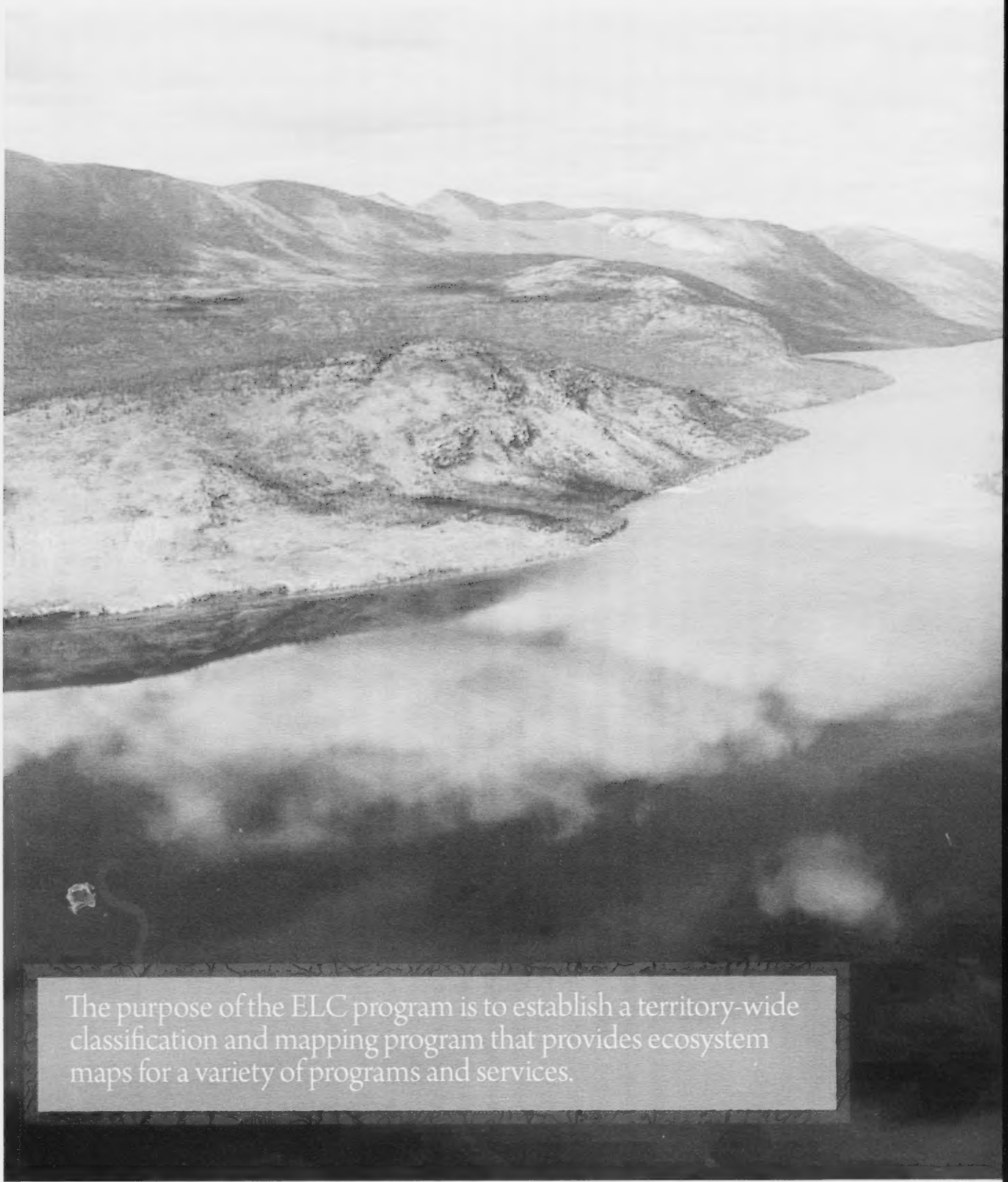
Standards: Ensure products are developed from a set of defined, consistent and coordinated standards. These products provide foundational ecological information for sustainable resource planning and management.

Program Services: Enhance understanding of Yukon's landscape by integrating and providing access to ecological knowledge. This understanding will enhance our policy and decision-making for sustainable management of Yukon landscapes and ecosystems.

Environment Yukon and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources will work together to make this vision a reality.

Kelvin Leary
Deputy Minister of Environment

Greg Komaromi
Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources



The purpose of the ELC program is to establish a territory-wide classification and mapping program that provides ecosystem maps for a variety of programs and services.

Executive Summary

ELC is defined as the identification and delineation of areas based upon their vegetation, climate and soils.

The purpose of the ELC program is to establish a territory-wide classification and mapping program that provides ecosystem maps for a variety of programs and services. Environment Yukon is the lead for coordinating, developing and delivering the ELC program on behalf of Yukon government. As a primary manager of Yukon's natural resources, Energy Mines and Resources is a partner and contributor to the ELC program.

This five-year strategic plan presents our approach for developing the ELC program. It recognizes Yukon government's current capacity, identifies future resource needs and acknowledges that this approach is part of a trend towards a more integrated land and resource management system. The strategic plan will be implemented in three phases:

In phase I and II, we will continue to develop classification and mapping frameworks and standards for the ELC program using existing resources.

In phase III, we will focus on providing support services for projects.

Monitoring is a key part of the success of this strategic plan. We have identified success measures that are tied to clear objectives. We will track our progress on achievement of the following four overarching program goals:

Goal 1 – High quality, well-managed and accessible input data.

Goal 2 – Classification and mapping framework and standards for Yukon landscapes.

Goal 3 – ELC supports and informs sustainable and integrated resource management.

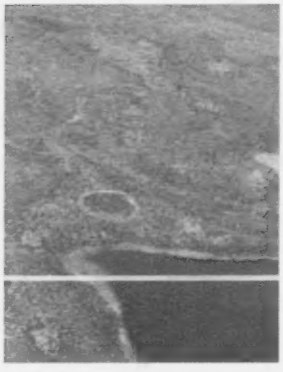
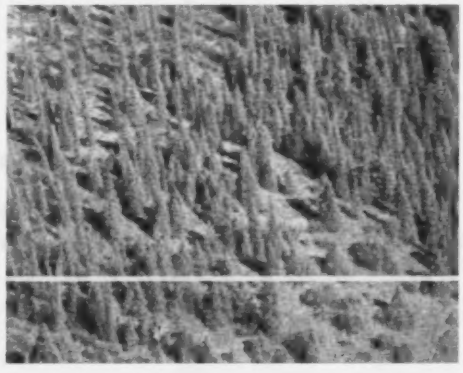
Goal 4 – A strong, supported program with the capacity to meet demands.

1 Introduction

This strategic plan is Yukon government's forward-looking document for the long-term planning of Yukon's Ecological and Landscape Classification (ELC) program. ELC is an approach to describing and mapping the landscape based upon vegetation, climate and soils.

ELC provides information to support a range of applications including land use planning, environmental assessment, forest management, land and resource development, best management practices, habitat management and climate change risk assessment and adaptation.

This strategic plan sets program goals, objectives and deliverables for the next five years. This plan defines measurable steps to deliver the ELC program. Priorities will be reviewed on a yearly basis.

1.1 Vision

A territory-wide ecological classification and mapping program that provides sound, high quality knowledge of Yukon landscapes and map products. This knowledge is the foundation for resource planning and management.

1.2 Mission

Our mission is to develop the ELC program in three program areas: framework development, establishment of standards and delivery of program services.

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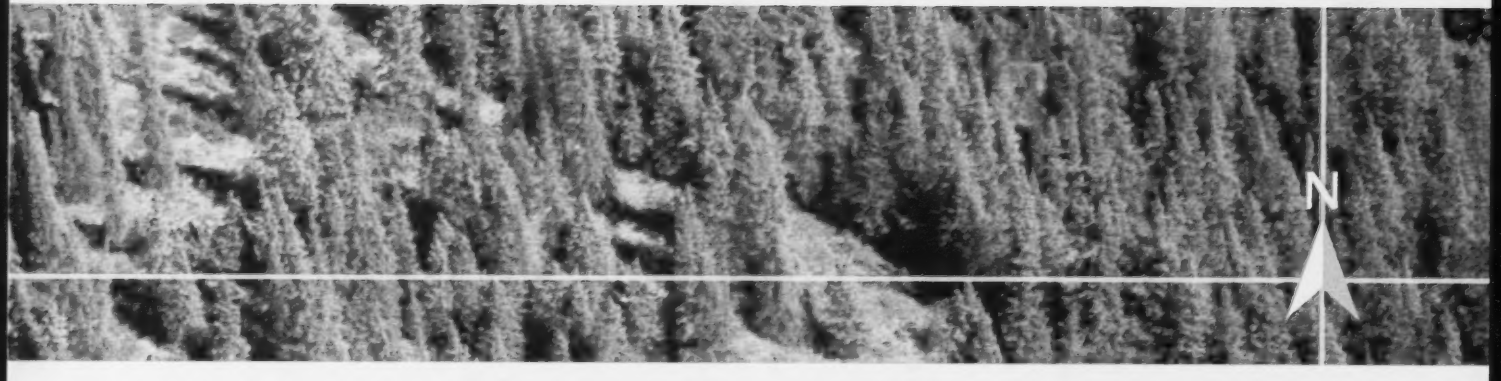
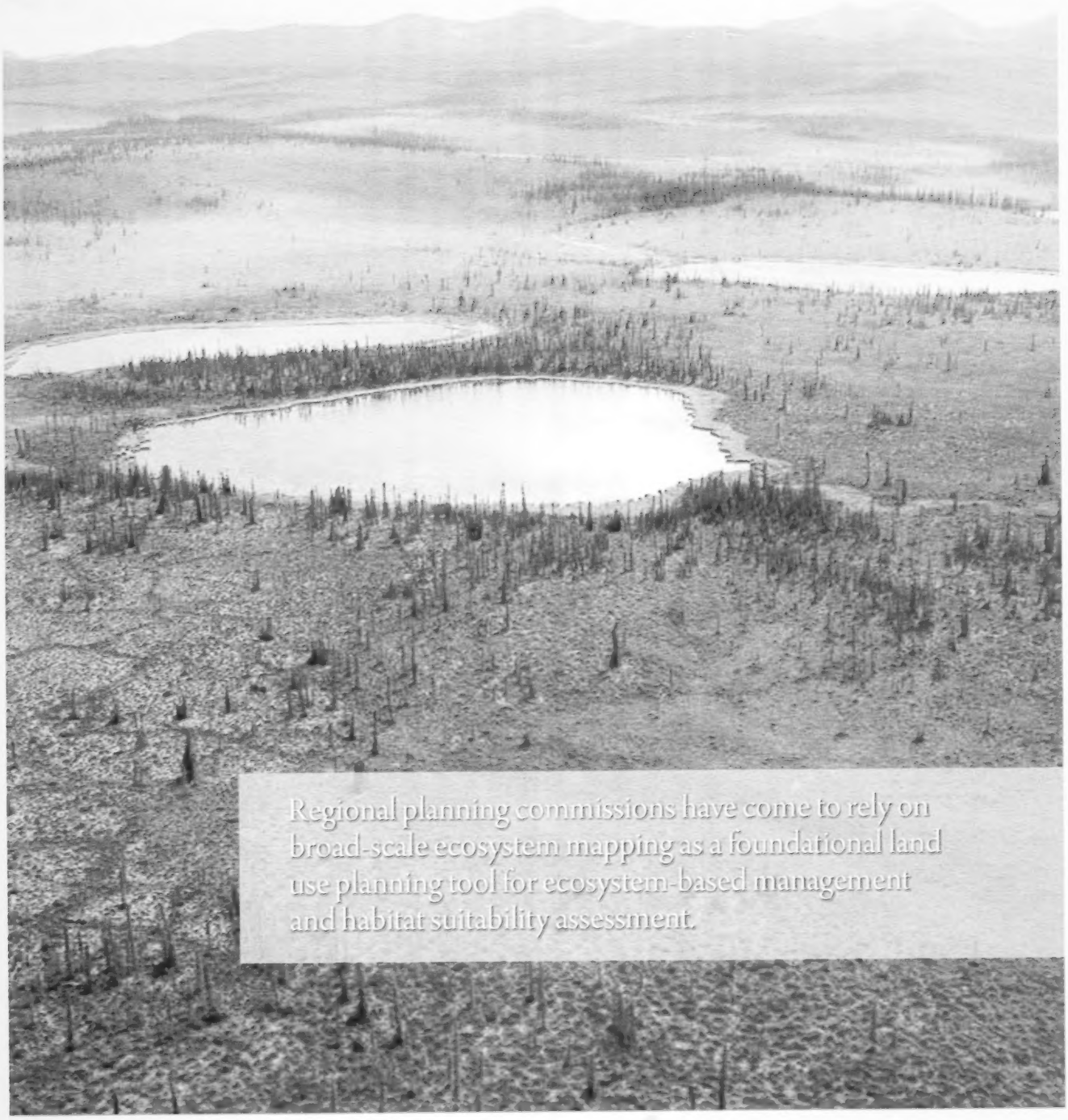


Over the next five years the ELC program will focus on developing three key program areas:

ELC Framework: Provide a uniform approach to Yukon ecological landscape classification and mapping to facilitate the integration and sharing of ecosystem knowledge across multiple disciplines.

Standards: Ensure products are developed from a set of defined, consistent and coordinated standards. These products provide foundational ecological information for sustainable resource planning and management.

Program Services: Enhance understanding of Yukon's landscape by integrating and providing access to ecological knowledge. This understanding will enhance our policy and decision-making for sustainable management of Yukon landscapes and ecosystems.



Regional planning commissions have come to rely on broad-scale ecosystem mapping as a foundational land use planning tool for ecosystem-based management and habitat suitability assessment.

2 Strategic Context

2.1 Program History

In 2002, a multi-agency biophysical mapping technical working group was established. Through the efforts of this group and various other initiatives, work progressed over the past 10 years on development of the Yukon ELC Framework. This technical working group has continued to evolve and advise the ELC program.

In 2006 Yukon government committed staff and financial resources to Environment Yukon to develop ecosystem classifications, conduct regional biophysical mapping and consolidate ELC data. The focus was on the biophysical mapping requirements of land use plans, special management area plans and environmental assessments.

In 2010, an ELC Coordinator was hired. Under the ELC Coordinator, support has been provided for various ELC projects throughout Yukon, including: ELC Framework revisions, Broad Predictive Ecosystem Mapping in the Dawson and Ross River areas, environmental assessments, development of web resources and a first approximation of a Yukon bioclimatic map.

2.2 Services and Products

2.2.1 Demand

Land and resource managers and planners have led an increase in demand for standardized ecosystem products throughout Yukon. Regional planning commissions have come to rely on broad-scale ecosystem mapping as a foundational land use planning tool for ecosystem-based management and habitat suitability assessment.

Environmental assessment relies on local-level ecological mapping for quantifying the extent of ecosystems, predicting ecological response to disturbance and identifying ways to mitigate short and long-term effects. ELC supports the responsible development of Yukon resources.

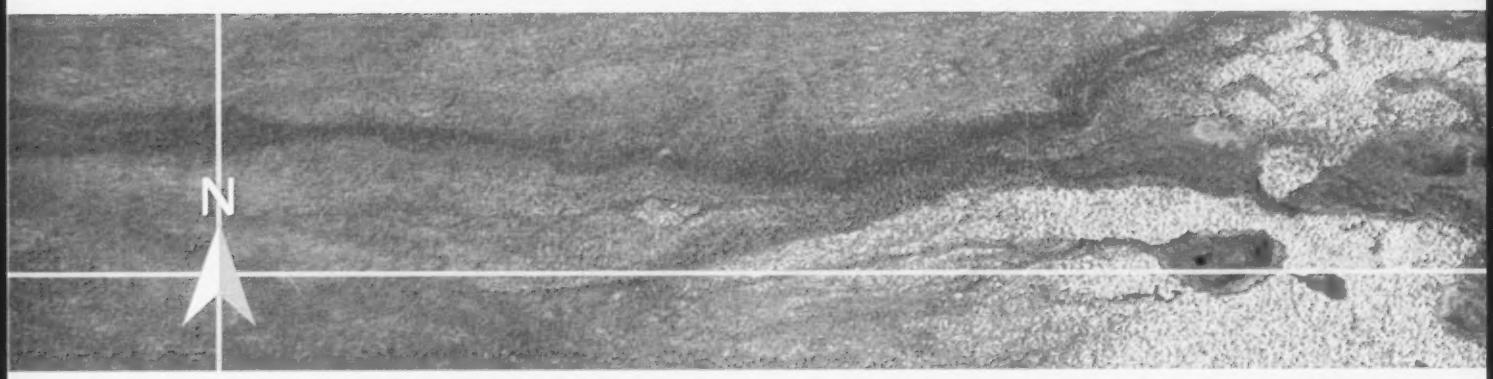
The public is less likely to be familiar with ELC products and applications. However, there may be demands for basic products, such as posters depicting ecosystems of the Yukon.

2.2.2 Resources

Yukon government has annually allocated a modest budget towards ELC initiatives. Cost-sharing has occured for specific projects, either within Yukon government or through federal agencies.

To date, the current budget and partnerships have enabled the development of regional ELC products and data, meeting priority requirements. Program deliverables have primarily been developed through the work of consultants, as the in-house production of regional ELC data sets is not possible with current staff resources.

There is also some demand for local-level and site-level ELC products, such as those required to support environmental assessments and project planning. The ELC program does not produce this scale of products, but does provide advice and guidance to those conducting this type of work.



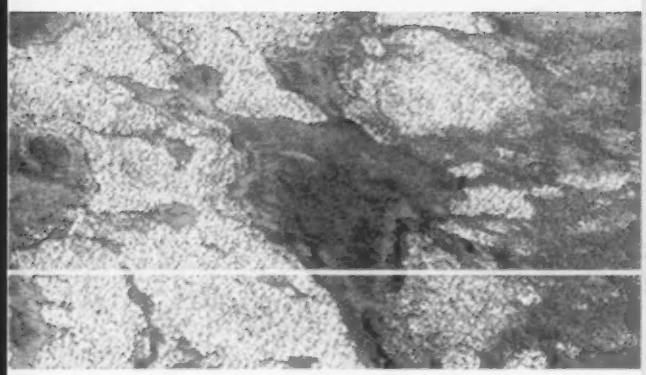
2.2.3 Data Inputs

The Yukon ELC program relies on a number of data inputs. These inputs are largely maintained by Yukon government or Government of Canada. The most important of these inputs are:

- Digital topographic base maps (National Topographic Digital Database or CanVec);
- Landform and elevation data derived from digital topographic base mapping (digital elevation model - DEM);
- Geology and surface materials (bedrock, surficial geology and soils);

- Earth cover derived from satellite imagery (e.g., EOSD);
- Forest cover and/or vegetation mapping;
- Forest, vegetation, soil and ecosystem plots; and
- Plant associations (derived from plot data).

Yukon data are generally accessible in digital form and are of adequate quality for use in ecological classification and mapping. There are some challenges with data consistency and spatial accuracy.



To date, the current budget and partnerships have enabled the development of regional ELC products and data , meeting priority requirements.

2.2.1 Existing Products

While ELC products to date have been based on sound ecological concepts, they have been completed by a loose network of ELC practitioners, both within and outside of Yukon government. Typically, ELC products have been developed in response to specific project requirements; utilizing evolving methods and concepts. The existing ELC Framework document lays out classification concepts, though it does not establish specific standards.

There are several legacy ELC data sets produced prior to 2010, which are held by various branches and/or departments as well as regional land use planning commissions.

3 Strategic Direction

3.1 Program Components

There are five key program components (Figure 1) that are needed for a fully functioning ELC program:

Inputs and data collection.

Various data collection necessary for ecological classification and mapping is managed by different sectors/agencies.

Ecological classification/mapping standards and methods.

Consistency for classification and mapping ecological systems is critical for consistent ELC products and their application.

Data management and information access.

Environment Yukon, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and external agencies work together to ensure that ELC-related data is accurate and accessible.

Ecological classification products.

ELC classification products can be at various scales. These products are valuable as interpretive tools (habitat suitability, access planning, etc.). Program partners work together to produce interpretations of ecological units and maps.

Management application.

Specialists in a variety of fields use ELC products (and interpretations) for a wide range of land and resource management applications.

Key program components for a fully functioning ELC program

Inputs and data collection

- Canadian vector digital topographic map (CanVec)
- Digital elevation model (DEM)
- Terrain mapping (geological and surficial mapping)
- Satellite imagery (earthcover)
- Yukon vegetation (Forest) inventory
- Biophysical plot data

Ecological classification/ mapping standards and methods

- Yukon ecoregion descriptions and mapping

ELC framework

- Regional – bioclimatic classification
- Broad ecosystem classification
- Local ecosystem (ecosites) classification

Data management and information access

- Assessment and quality control protocols
- Access data through open data access and management protocols

Ecological classification products

Mapping products

- Yukon ecoregions
- Bioclimatic zones
- Bioterrain
- Broad ecosystems
- Ecosites

Documentation

- Ecological classification hierarchy and descriptions
- Field guidebooks
- Methods manuals

Management applications

- Resource planning and management
- Land use planning
- Forest management
- Environmental assessment
- Best management practices
- Reclamation
- Wildlife habitat conservation
- Biodiversity monitoring and reporting

INFORMATION AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Figure 1 Core ELC program components

3.2 Program Coordination and Management

The ELC program resides in the Policy & Planning Branch of Environment Yukon. The ELC program has its own budget and a coordinator. The program's governance structure includes interdepartmental and external stakeholders and can be adapted to meet evolving program needs. This structure encourages input and guidance from a variety of sources.

The *ELC Coordinator* is part of the Environmental Planning Unit at Environment Yukon.

The ELC program is cooperatively managed by an *ELC Supervisory Committee* from Environment Yukon and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

The *ELC Technical Working Group* contributes technical expertise to the Yukon ELC program and specific products. The TWG includes representatives of government and non-government groups.

A broad base of support for the program through inter-departmental and inter-governmental cooperation will continue to be sought through various means.

Yukon ELC program coordination model

ELC Technical Working Group

Internal and external technical specialists

Provides data inputs and advice on technical framework development, support with input data, inventory coordination.
Chair: ELC Coordinator

ELC Supervisory Committee

Enviroment Yukon and Energy, Mines and Resources

Provides direction on work planning and projects resources.
Chair: Manager, Environmental Planning

Habitat Programs

Environment Yukon Fish and Wildlife Branch

Provides technical resources to undertake ecological/vegetation classification, inventory coordination, data manipulation and modeling.

Information Management and Technology Branch

Environment Yukon

Manages data and inputs, information system, data manipulation and modeling

Figure 2 Yukon ELC program coordination model

4 Strategic Goals and Objectives

The following section identifies the ELC program goals and objectives, based on the program components outlined in section 3.1. These help establish ELC annual work plans as well as prioritize projects, activities and outcomes

Goal 1 High quality, well-managed and accessible input data

A variety of data types that come from multiple sources are required for ELC. The utility of end products depends on the quality of data used to build them.

Objective 1.1 Improve the quality and consistency of ecological products and maps at scales meaningful to resource managers.

- Determine/track availability of input data, identify gaps to ELC and develop a plan to fill critical/priority areas.
- Work with committees and stakeholders to confirm priority areas for input generation as well as ecosystem fieldwork, classification and/or mapping
- Create and maintain consistent standards for ecological classification inputs.
- Provide advice to other Yukon government ELC users to promote quality and consistency of ELC-related products.

Objective 1.2 Adopt a data management system and methods to collect, store and retrieve ecosystem data.

- Clarify the roles related to a biophysical data management system. Clarity is needed as to who will oversee ecosystem plot data within the system and facilitate data sharing.
- Document and develop as required data standards, criteria, access and use of biophysical plot databases.
- Review and consider adopting Environment Yukon's field sampling protocol for ELC program use.

Objective 1.3 Provide key map layer inputs and guidance to enable other agencies to produce ELC map products.

- Develop base inputs such as soil moisture model, terrain models and wetland ecosystems.
- Provide other agencies with advice on the application and use of these base inputs.

Goal 2 Classification and mapping framework and standards established for Yukon landscapes

Objective 2.1 Uniform approach to classifying and identifying ecosystem communities.

- Complete data and mapping standards for bioclimatic zones and subzones, and broad and local ecosystems.
- Document the scientific basis and principles for Yukon's ecological and landscape classification program.
- Develop ecoregion descriptions and delineations.
- Complete consistent broad and local-scale ecological classification systems for Yukon that integrate terrestrial and aquatic systems.
- Develop ecosystem (ecosite) guidebooks and manuals for priority/pilot areas.
- Complete bioclimatic mapping in order to frame context of regional and local scale classification and mapping.
- Provide high-level landscape characterization based on climatic regions and ecological associations.

Goal 3 ELC is used to support and inform sustainable and integrated resource management

Objective 3.1 Support effective resource planning and assessment by providing the tools to identify ecological information.

- Develop ecosystem (ecosite) guidebooks and manuals as required.
- Develop digital standards (scale, accuracy) for the application of ELC products.

Objective 3.2 Coordinate interpretation of ELC products to inform land and resource decision-making.

- Inform planners, proponents, assessors and decision makers with respect to the interpretation and application of different ecological units.

Objective 3.3 Promote products and services to clients and position the ELC program as the leading source of ELC information.

- Develop a website as part of Yukon government's public website.
- Develop and distribute a newsletter to communicate program activities/ updates.
- Communicate (in person, email, posters and presentations) with our stakeholders.
- Provide access to ELC data.

Objective 3.4 Develop policy related to application of ELC in land management and regulatory processes.

- Seek opportunities for Yukon government to apply and promote ecological classification and mapping products.
- Work with YESAB, First Nation governments, Federal Departments and Yukon government departments to integrate ecological classification, mapping and resource management applications within planning, environmental assessment, development and regulatory processes.
- Develop quality assessment and quality control standards for ELC products used in environmental assessment criteria and mitigation measures.

Goal 4 A strong, supported program with the capacity to meet demands

Objective 4.1 Develop and maintain collaborative working relationships with clients and domain experts to exchange and integrate knowledge.

- Engage and promote the ELC program with potential project partners.

Objective 4.2 Pursue funding and program resources.

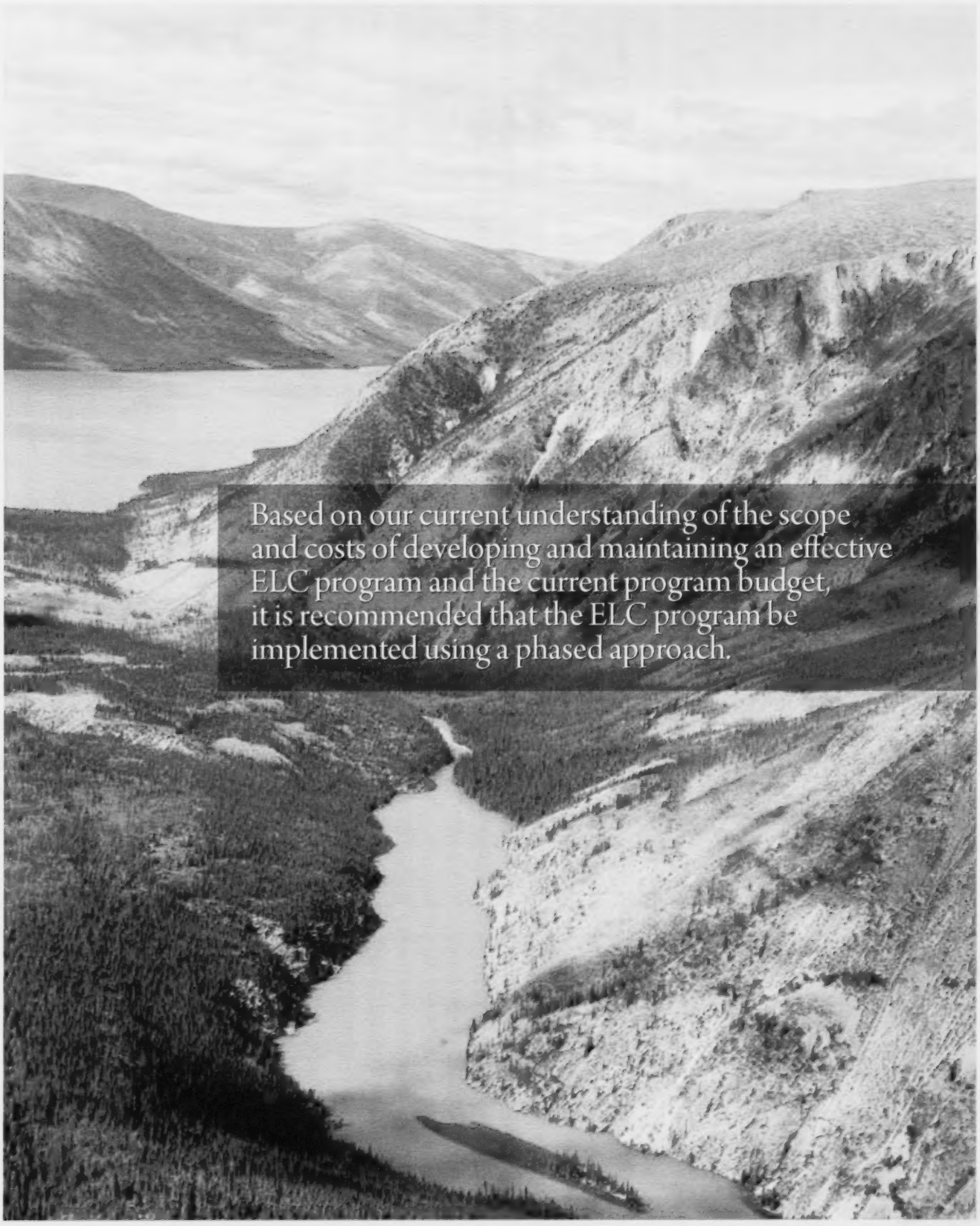
- Work with other agencies to prepare funding proposals, to classify and map ecosystems.
- Identify skill areas that are currently under-resourced and address how this need may be met.

Objective 4.3 Develop and formalize relationships with partner agencies and to facilitate understanding of roles and mandate.

- Develop Terms of Reference for ELC program committees and working groups. Develop policy related to application of ELC in land management and regulatory processes

Objective 4.4 Provide essential support, training and services to our clients and committees.

- Strengthen knowledge of ecological classification methods for ELC products.
- Provide training opportunities to clients in field techniques, framework concepts and mapping techniques.
- Provide support and training on development and application of ELC products.


Based on our current understanding of the scope and costs of developing and maintaining an effective ELC program and the current program budget, it is recommended that the ELC program be implemented using a phased approach.

5 Action Plan

Based on our current understanding of the scope and costs of developing and maintaining an effective ELC program and the current program budget, it is recommended that the ELC program be implemented using a phased approach.

We have identified three key planning phases for meeting short, medium and long-term goals.

In phase I and II we are focused on delivering on Goals 1 and 2, which establish the ELC framework, classification and mapping standards as well as the classification system.

Phase III is focused on program services; delivering ecological mapping and interpretive support services to our clients. Program services in phase III are further outlined in Goals 3 and 4. Our "logic model" links specific actions and long-term vision (see Appendix).

In this strategic plan, we have proposed timelines for completing phase I and II. Each phase has clearly defined milestones and specific deliverables that must be met to lay the foundation before moving into the next phase.

In phase I and II, the planned ELC program activities are based upon current personnel, operating budgets and partnerships. This requires inputs from various participants. For example:

- Habitat Programs (Fish and Wildlife Branch) conduct ELC-related land cover (satellite imagery) mapping and ecological plot collection.
- Environment Yukon's Information Management and Technology Branch (IMT) manages key input layers, assists with mapping and spatial analysis as well as delivery of digital databases and geospatial products. IMT also maintains a data management system called the Yukon Biophysical Inventory System (YBIS) for storage and retrieval of site, soils and vegetation plot data.
- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources' Forest Management Branch maintains the Yukon Vegetation Inventory (YVI).
- Yukon Geological Survey provides surface geology mapping.
- Other external agencies also contribute resources in the production of key input data as identified in Section 2.2.3.

At the end of each fiscal year, The ELC Supervisory Committee will evaluate program accomplishments over the year. This allows measurement of "what we did" and "what we intended to do". Detailed work planning for program deliverables will be done as part of each yearly review.

When the ELC program is ready to move into phase III (Goals 3 and 4) with a focus on program services, the need for additional internal resources and/or funds in the areas of ecological or vegetation classification and geomatics support will be assessed. Based upon the results of this assessment, a submission to revise the program budget may be developed and proposed to management.

5.1 PHASE I – FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENT

Desired Outcomes:

1. The Yukon ELC program and existing interim ELC products have gained a profile, function, use and recognition (there is an increasing familiarity with the ELC concept and its basic elements and implications).

2. There is widespread agreement over the Yukon ELC Framework terminology and concepts and these begin to benefit Yukon land and resource management programs and decisions.

3. The Yukon ELC Unit is functioning and produces high quality and accessible products.

Specific Deliverables:

1. Finalized Strategic Plan

2. List of priorities for ecosystem classification and mapping

3. Yukon ELC documentation and standards

4. Derived inputs for use in mapping projects (soil moisture mapping, modelled terrain mapping)

5. Support the application of existing ELC data for land and resource programs and decisions

5.2 PHASE II – STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

Desired Outcomes:

1. The Yukon ELC Unit is functioning and continues to produce high quality products.

2. The Yukon ELC Management Committee provides high-level direction for government-wide initiatives for ELC application.

3. Yukon ELC Framework terminology, concepts and specifications are used as the standard.

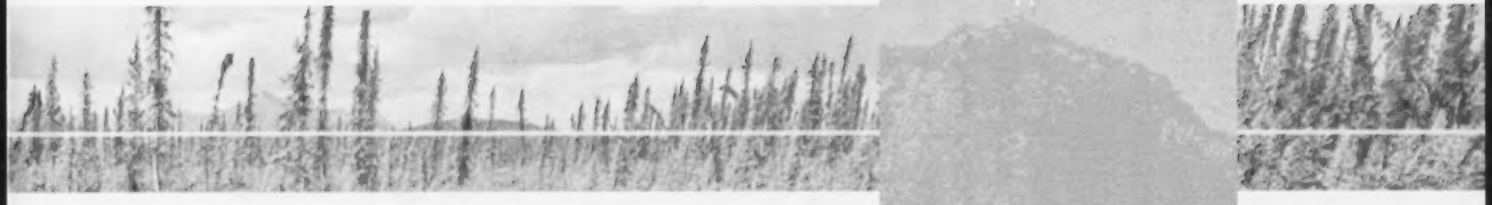
4. A field and research program is developed that rigorously tests and verifies ecological classification, mapping methods and input data.

5. Yukon ELC program provides classification guidelines, map products and interpretive guidance for integrated land and resource management.

6. Ecological mapping needs are anticipated where demands for management of resources are most pressing – there is a proactive (not reactive) approach to ecological mapping.

7. Good relationships exist with ELC practitioners in terms of using and applying ELC standards and sharing information.

The Yukon ELC Supervisory Committee provides high level direction for government-wide initiatives for ELC application.



Specific Deliverables:

1. Yukon-wide bioclimate classification and mapping
2. Methods and data standards manuals and guidebooks
3. A defined project area for a Broad-scale Predictive Ecosystem Mapping (PEM) to test and verify ELC concepts
4. A plan for collection of ecological field plots
5. A plan for future ELC classification and mapping
6. Ecological and Landscape Classification (Bioclimatic, Broad and Local-scale) for Yukon and Guidebooks produced for priority areas
7. Version 1.0 of the following ELC products:
   - Complete version 1.0 of Yukon's Broad Ecosystem Mapping (1:100,000)
   - Complete version 1.0 of Ecosite-level Ecosystem Mapping (1:50,000) for priority areas

Ecological mapping needs are anticipated where demands for management of resources are most pressing – there is a proactive (not reactive) approach to ecological mapping.

5.3 PHASE III – PROGRAM SERVICES

Desired Outcomes:

1. Activities and deliverables have evolved from a focus on developing the ELC program into service-oriented production, supported by increased resources (Landscape Ecologist and Spatial Analyst).

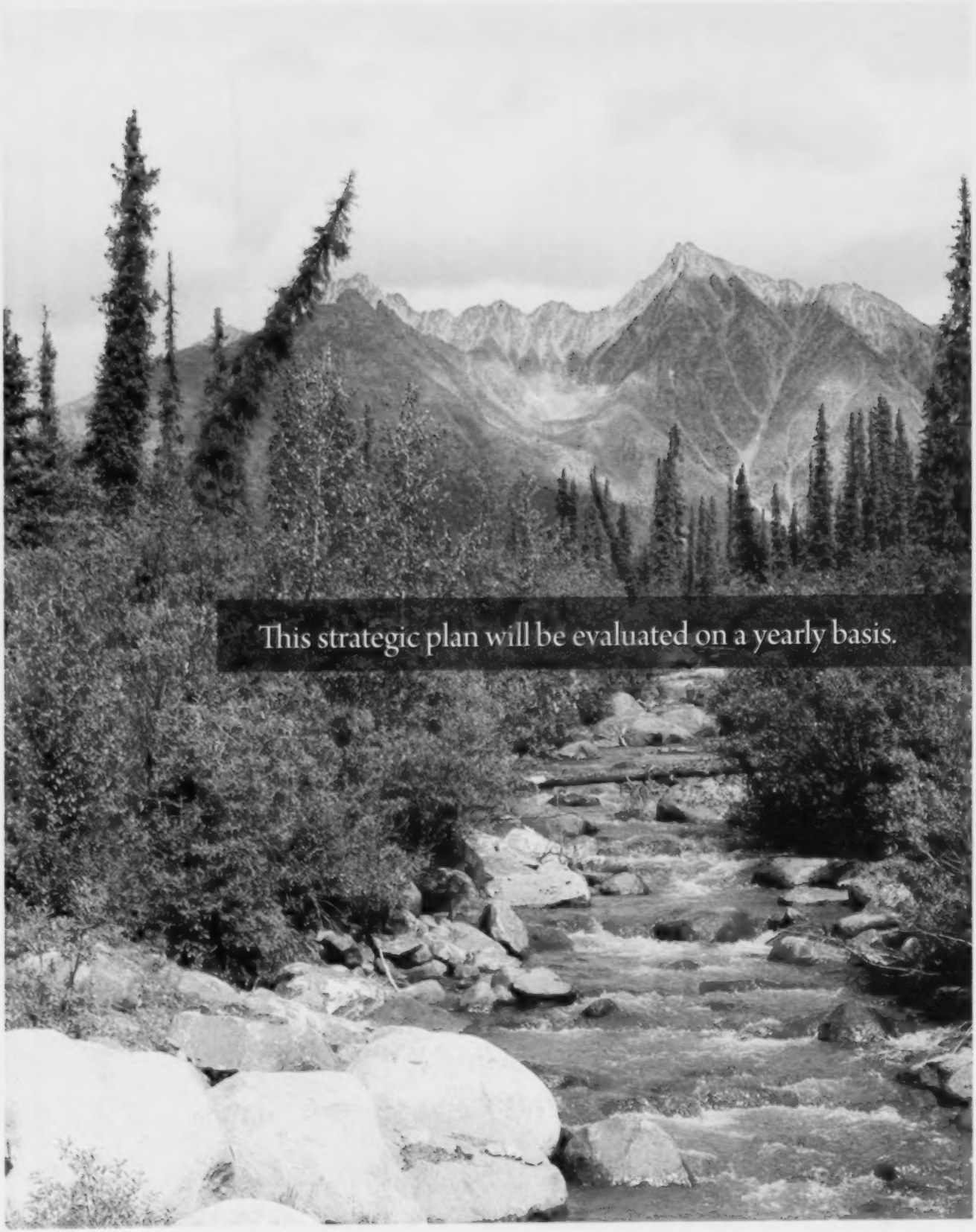
2. Yukon ELC products are fundamental tools in land and resource decision-making (The use of ELC is the standard way of doing business in relation to land and resource management).

3. A community of Yukon ELC practitioners are skilfully collecting and interpreting ecological data to effectively contribute to Yukon land and resource management.

Specific Deliverables:

1. Assessment of phases one and two, a determination of needs and resources required to advance ELC and development of options to secure appropriate capacity.

2. Proposal for advancing ELC with increased products and services.


This strategic plan will be evaluated on a yearly basis.

6 Monitoring, Evaluating, and Reporting

This strategic plan will be evaluated on a yearly basis. By setting measurable actions for each goal and objective we have a built-in way to monitor and evaluate program success. At the end of each year, the ELC Coordinator will develop a report for the Supervisory Committee. The report's content will include a summary of whether the goals set for the past year are on track and will recommend measurable goals for the next year. The Supervisory Committee will be responsible for reviewing the strategic plan and will work with the ELC Coordinator to set goals and priorities for the next year. The progress report will be made available to the Technical Working Group. This progress report can also be used for branch planning and budgeting.

Internal changes in staff resources and skill sets may occur over the next five years. External factors such as funding, technology, key input data and demand for ecological products may also shift. To respond to changes in internal and external factors, the ELC Coordinator, with the Supervisory Committee and stakeholders, will evaluate the deliverables for each phase on an annual basis.

If it is determined that program goals will not meet the demands for ecological classification and mapping, the strategic plan will be reviewed and amended.

7 Appendix: Ecosystem and Landscape Classification Program Logic Model

Resources/Inputs

Staff, Consulting and Partners

- Dedicated ELC Coordinator
- Supervisory Committee (ENV, EMR)
- Technical Working Group
- Consulting expertise
- Partners (e.g., Ducks Unlimited, Canadian Wildlife Service)

Funding

- Stable operating budget
- YESAA and LUP implementation funds
- Other grants...

Data Inputs

- YBIS – Yukon Biophysical Inventory System and database
- Yukon Vegetation Classification and Guidebooks – (arctic, subarctic and western boreal) (C-NVC)
- Research reports (ecological plot data, ecosystem classification)
- Remotely sense thematic maps
- Base data (DEM, waterways and water bodies)
- Data mined from other resources to minimize resources required

Activities

Phase I

- Establish and maintain Collaborative working relationships with Technical Working Group members, clients and program partners Ecosystem sampling (YBIS)
- Finalize Framework document and Strategic Plan

Phase II

- Develop the hierarchical ecosystem classification (Bioclimatic -> Ecosite)
- Develop predictive models, methodologies and standards for YEC
- Prepare and maintain YEC documentation (field guides, website)
- Provide training and project management

Phase III

- Coordinate creation and maintenance of spatial data for predictive mapping
- Perform Multi-scale Ecosystem Mapping
- Maintenance phase of ELC program
- Update ELC products as required

Outputs

- Yukon Bioclimatic Map
- Broad-scale ecosystem maps
- Ecosite Field Guides
- Ecosystem classification hierarchy for arctic, subarctic and western boreal) Yukon Vegetation Classification
- Methods and standards
- Direction on application, ecosystem-base management
- Presentation/training material
- Five-Year Strategic Plan
- ELC Framework Concepts
- Long-term field sampling protocol and program for ecosystem data collection
- Website
- Newsletter
- Derived multi-scale data inputs (slope curvature models) for predictive ecosystem mapping

Clients/Target Audience

Yukon Government

- Branches and units involved in land management, land-use planning, habitat assessment, climate change, integrated resource planning, etc.

First Nation Governments and Councils

- Land use managers / planners and researchers with lands and resource departments
- Umbrella Final Agreement Commissions, Boards and Councils:
- Yukon Land Use Planning Council and regional planning commissions

Communities and Public

- Industry need for both plain language and technical products
- Environmental groups
- Media
- General public interested in a plain language understanding of ecosystem products
- YESAB, Designated Offices, proponents and decision bodies

Phase I - Short Term Outcomes (April 2012) Measurable	Phase II - Medium Term Outcomes (April 2013) Measured if possible	Phase III - Long Term Outcomes (March 2016) Projected	Impact (2020)	YG Strategic Objectives Supported
• Strategic planning lays out the path for program development with clear methods to achieve end-goals • The Yukon ELC program and existing interim ELC products gain profile and recognition • Website and newsletter effectively communicate program information to the general public and stakeholders • YBIS has effective data management • Technical Working Group provides guidance to the program • Framework terminology and concepts are used in Yukon land and resource management • Interdepartmental Planning Committee mandate includes planning for ecosystem and land classification program initiatives • The Yukon ELC Unit is functioning and producing high quality products • Ecology staff with extensive field experience and expertise, including TWG and SC	• Improve accessibility of existing ecosystem plot data • The Yukon ELC Unit is functioning and producing high quality products • The Yukon ELC Management Committee provides high-level direction for government-wide initiatives for ELC application • A field and research program that rigorously tests and verifies ecological classification, mapping methods, models and input data • Strong relationships with stakeholders, industry – all those who are interested in using and applying ELC standards	• Proactive approach to ecological mapping where demands for management of resources are most pressing • Yukon ELC provides the foundation for integrated land and resource management • Yukon ELC products have become fundamental considerations in land and resource decision-making • A community of Yukon ELC practitioners has been trained, is effective, and is contributing to Yukon land and resource management • Stable multi-year funding to enable operational and HR planning • Program enters into a 'maintenance' phase	• A territory wide ecological classification and mapping program that provides sound, high quality knowledge of Yukon landscapes and map products. This knowledge is the foundation for resource planning and management. • Ecological information that supports integrated resource management, ecosystem-based management, environmental assessment, oil, gas and mineral developments, wildlife management, sustainable forest management, conservation area planning, habitat assessment, land use planning, cumulative effects management and climate change assessments.	• Advance integrated resource management goals • Support sustainable resource planning and management